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Date: May 9, 2006 Name: JoAnne M. Varanelli Signature: *JoAnne M. Varanelli*

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of Dominique Dupuis) Confirmation No.: 7168
)
Serial No.: 10/540,783) Group Art Unit: 1741
)
Filing Date: March 1, 2006) Docket No.: 99342.00063
)
For: Method for Enhancing the Physico-Chemical Properties of Bitumen Compositions and Novel Bitumen Compositions with Enhanced Properties and Their Uses) Customer No.: 21832

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, the materials listed on the attached form PTO-1449 are being brought to the attention of the Examiner for consideration in connection with the examination of the above-identified patent application. This Information Disclosure Statement is believed to be filed prior to the mailing date of a First Office Action regarding the above-referenced application. Accordingly, no fee is believed to be required. Pursuant to the waiver of the requirement under 37 CFR § 1.98(a)(2)(i) for applications filed after June 30, 2003, copies of the references set forth and cited on form PTO-1449 are not enclosed herewith.

Filed herewith is a copy of each reference listed on form PTO-1449. For non-English-language reference **EP048792**, an English-language version of a search report from a counterpart international (PCT) application which indicates the degree of relevance of said reference as determined by the European Patent Office, is attached hereto in accordance with section 609.04(a).III of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP), second full paragraph, in fulfillment of the concise explanation of

relevance requirement set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.98 (a)(3)(i). In addition, United States Patent No. 4,371,400, which is cited in the form PTO-1449, claims priority to the same German patent application, DE 3036537, as the cited European application EP048792.


It is respectfully requested the Examiner indicate consideration of the cited references by returning a copy of the attached form PTO-1449 with initials or other appropriate marks.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97, the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made; an admission that the information cited in the statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in § 1.56(b); or an admission that the information cited in the statement is, or is considered to be, prior art.

No fee is believed to be required. However, if any fee is required, or otherwise if necessary to cover any deficiency in fees already paid, authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 50-3569.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 9, 2006

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Substitute for form 1449/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				Complete if Known	
				Application Number	10/540,783
				Filing Date	March 1, 2006
				First Named Inventor	Dominique Dupuis
				Art Unit	1714
				Examiner Name	TBA
				Attorney Docket Number	99342.00063
Sheet	2	of	2		

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, pages(s), volume-issue numbers(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²
	1	International Search Report as published in WO2004/048456A3	

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application for to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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